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Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7, 9 and 11.

Please amend claims 8 and 10 as indicated below. For the convenience of the Examiner all of the claims still open for consideration are presented below.

Listing of Claims:

8. (Currently Amended) A partially automated transmission system comprising:
a fuel-controlled engine,
an engine controller for controlling fueling of the engine in accordance with command output signals,
a compound multiple-speed mechanical transmission with a main transmission section shifted by a manual shift lever in combination with an auxiliary section and having an input shaft driven through a master friction clutch by the engine,
an output shaft,
a first operator selector movable to a first position for selection of a first mode of operation of an accessory otherwise unconnected with the transmission and said first operator selector movable to a second position for selection of a second mode of operation of said accessory,
a second operator selector movable to a first position for selection of upshifts to a target ratio and movable to a second position for selection of downshifts to a target ratio,
a control unit for receiving input signals and processing same according to predetermined logic rules to issue command output signals,
a detent mechanism for providing a selectively variable resistance to movement of said shift lever from a ratio-disengaged to a ratio-engaged position, said detent mechanism having a first condition for providing a greater resistance to movement of said shift lever from said ratio-disengaged to said ratio-engaged position and a second condition for applying a lesser resistance to movement of said shift lever from said ratio-disengaged to said ratio-engaged position, and
said logic rules being effective to determine, dependent on the operator selection of the first mode and the second mode of operation of the accessory, a driver intent to maintain said shift lever in said ratio-disengaged position and, upon sensing such intent,

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causing said detent mechanism to assume said first condition and said logic rules being effective to determine, independently of operation of said master friction clutch and said shift lever, a driver intent to move said shift lever, wherein said intent-to-maintain signal is provided only if there is no signal from the second operator selector indicating an intent-to-shift.

10. (Currently Amended) A transmission system (10) comprising:

a mechanical transmission for a motor vehicle, the transmission being a compound mechanical transmission with a main transmission section shifted by a shift member in combination with an auxiliary section,

a master friction clutch for drivingly coupling an engine to the mechanical transmission,

[a] said shift member for moving a selected positive clutch member within the transmission to a selected one of an engaged or a disengaged position,

means for sensing a requirement to maintain said selected positive clutch member in said disengaged position and for providing an intent-to-maintain signal thereof, said intent-to-maintain signal being dependent on the operation of an accessory otherwise unconnected with the transmission, and

a detent mechanism for providing a selectively variable resistance to movement of said clutch member from said disengaged to said engaged position, said detent mechanism having a first condition for providing a greater resistance to movement of said clutch member from said disengaged to said engaged position and a second condition for applying a lesser resistance to movement of said clutch member from said disengaged to said engaged position, said detent mechanism assuming said first condition upon sensing said intent-to-maintain signal[.] ,

a second operator selector movable to a first position for selection of upshifts to a target ratio and movable to a second position for selection of downshifts to a target ratio,
and

means independent of operation of said shift member and said master friction clutch for sensing a requirement to move said selected positive clutch member, wherein said intent-to-maintain signal is provided only if there is no such requirement to move sensed.

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12. (Previously Presented) A transmission system comprising:
a mechanical transmission for a motor vehicle,
a master friction clutch for drivingly coupling an engine to the mechanical transmission,
a shift member for moving a selected positive clutch member within the transmission to a selected one of an engaged or a disengaged position,
means independent of operation of said shift member and said master friction clutch for sensing a requirement to move said selected positive clutch member from said engaged position to said disengaged position and for providing an intent-to-shift signal indicative thereof,
means for sensing a requirement to maintain said selected positive clutch member in said disengaged position and for providing an intent-to-maintain signal thereof, said intent-to-maintain signal being dependent on the operation of an accessory otherwise unconnected with the transmission.
a detent mechanism for providing a selectively variable resistance to movement of said selected positive clutch member from said engaged to said disengaged position, said detent mechanism having a first condition for providing a greater resistance to movement of said selected positive clutch member from said engaged to said disengaged position and a second condition for applying a lesser resistance to movement of said selected positive clutch member from said engaged to said disengaged position, said detent mechanism assuming said second condition upon sensing said intent-to-shift signal, and
said detent mechanism also providing a selectively variable resistance to movement of said selected positive clutch member from said disengaged to said engaged position, said detent mechanism having a third condition for providing a greater resistance to movement of said selected positive clutch member from said disengaged to said engaged position and a fourth condition for applying a lesser resistance to movement of said selected positive clutch member from said disengaged to said engaged position, said detent mechanism assuming said third condition upon sensing said intent-to-maintain signal.

13. (Previously Presented) A transmission system as set forth in claim 12 wherein the transmission is a compound mechanical transmission with a main transmission section shifted by said shift member in combination with an auxiliary section, and the transmission system also has an operator selector movable to a first position for selection of upshifts to a

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target ratio and movable to a second position for selection of downshifts to a target ratio, further wherein said intent-to-maintain signal is provided only if no requirement to move is sensed.